



United States Department of Agriculture
National Agricultural Statistics Service

Louisiana Farm Reporter
Volume 10 Number 9
May 4, 2010



Cooperating with the Louisiana Department of Agriculture and Forestry
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HIGHLIGHTS IN THIS REPORT

Livestock Slaughter
Average Prices Received by Farmers

Louisiana Livestock Slaughter

Commercial red meat production in Louisiana during March totaled 600,000 pounds, up 20 percent from the previous month but down 14 percent from the previous year.

There were 500 head of **cattle** slaughtered during March, up 100 head from February but down 200 head from the previous year. Average live weight was 786 pounds, down 14 pounds from the previous month but 20 pounds above March 2009. Total live weight, at 381,000 pounds, was seven percent above the previous month but 26 percent below the previous year.

Calves slaughtered during March totaled 400 head, unchanged from the previous month but up 100 head from the previous year. Live weight averaged 535 pounds, down seven pounds from February but 13 pounds above a year ago. Total live weight, at 231,000 pounds, was down four percent from February but 46 percent above the previous year.

The number of **hogs** slaughtered during March totaled 1,400 head, up 200 head from the previous month but down 100 head from March 2009. Average live weight was 205 pounds, up 17 pounds from February but 25 pounds below the previous year. Total live weight was 290,000 pounds, up 34 percent from February but 16 percent below the previous year.

The number of **sheep** slaughtered during March was 400 head, up 100 head from the previous month but down 100 head from the previous year. Live weight averaged 76 pounds, down 12 pounds from the previous month and 13 pounds below the previous year.

United States Livestock Slaughter

Commercial red meat production for the United States totaled 4.3 billion pounds in March, up three percent from the 4.1 billion pounds produced in March 2009.

March 2010 contained 23 weekdays (including no holidays) and four Saturdays. **March 2009** contained 22 weekdays (including no holidays) and four Saturdays.

Beef production, at 2.2 billion pounds, was three percent above the previous year. Cattle slaughter totaled 2.9 million head, up seven percent from March 2009. The average live weight was down 32 pounds from the previous year, at 1,273 pounds.

Veal production totaled 12.2 million pounds, slightly below March a year ago. Calf slaughter totaled 79,800 head, up slightly from March 2009. The average live weight was down four pounds from last year, at 259 pounds.

Pork production totaled 2.0 billion pounds, up four percent from the previous year. Hog kill totaled 10.0 million head, up four percent from March 2009. The average live weight was unchanged from the previous year, at 272 pounds.

Lamb and mutton production, at 17.6 million pounds, was up 11 percent from March 2009. Sheep slaughter totaled 262,300 head, 18 percent above last year. The average live weight was 135 pounds, down eight pounds from March a year ago.

January to March 2010 commercial red meat production was 11.9 billion pounds, down two percent from 2009. Accumulated beef production was up slightly from last year; veal was down two percent; pork was down four percent from last year; and lamb and mutton production was up two percent.

Commercial Livestock Slaughter and Red Meat Production

Item	Louisiana					United States			
	February	March		January - March		March		January - March	
	2010	2009	2010	2009	2010	2009	2010	2009	2010
-----Number, thousand head-----									
Cattle	0.4	0.7	0.5	1.9	1.3	2,729.5	2,912.7	7,975.6	8,167.5
Calves	0.4	0.3	0.4	0.9	1.3	79.8	79.8	238.5	236.6
Hogs	1.2	1.5	1.4	3.4	3.4	9,656.9	10,030.5	28,503.1	27,631.3
Sheep & Lambs	0.3	0.5	0.4	1.0	0.9	221.4	262.3	590.1	627.3
-----Total live weight, thousand									
Cattle	355	517	381	1,411	1,022	3,548,711	3,693,228	10,387,083	10,434,848
Calves	241	158	231	495	728	20,771	20,382	59,962	57,896
Hogs	217	347	290	726	668	2,623,944	2,723,773	7,741,531	7,487,182
Sheep & Lambs	24	40	28	74	68	31,734	35,254	83,799	85,753
-----Average live weight, pounds-----									
Cattle	800	766	786	743	786	1,305	1,273	1,307	1,282
Calves	542	522	535	550	560	263	259	255	248
Hogs	188	230	205	214	196	272	272	272	271
Sheep & Lambs	88	89	76	74	76	143	135	142	137
-----Million pounds-----									
Red Meat	0.5	0.7	0.6	1.7	1.5	4,141.9	4,281.7	12,138.6	11,935.5

Average Prices Received By Farmers

Item	Louisiana			United States		
	Entire Month		Preliminary	Entire Month		Preliminary
	April 2009	March 2010	April ¹ 2010	April 2009	March 2010	April ¹ 2010
	----- Dollars -----			----- Dollars -----		
Soybeans, per bushel	9.38	2/	9.10	9.79	9.39	9.48
Sorghum, per cwt	n/a	2/	2/	5.57	5.68	5.31
Rice, per cwt	12.80	13.90	13.00	15.00	14.00	14.10
Upland Cotton, per pound	.444	.623	.644 ³	.447	.645	.635 ³
Hay, all, baled, per ton	n/a	n/a	n/a	126.00	108.00	109.00
Beef Cattle, per cwt ⁴	58.90	64.10	68.30	83.80	90.50	95.40
Steers & Heifers, per cwt	88.70	96.50	101.00	88.30	95.60	101.00
Cows, per cwt ⁵	46.70	51.50	55.00	48.00	53.50	56.90
Calves, per cwt	98.30	108.00	114.00	109.00	115.00	121.00
Broilers, live, per pound	n/a	n/a	n/a	.450	.490	.480
Eggs, All, per dozen	n/a	n/a	n/a	.920	1.160	.767
Milk, All, per cwt ⁶	n/a	n/a	n/a	11.90	14.80	14.60

¹ Mid-month.

² Price not published to avoid disclosure of individual firms.

³ Preliminary prices are based on sales during the first half of the month.

⁴ "Cows" and "steers and heifers" combined.

⁵ Beef cows and cull dairy cows sold for slaughter.

⁶ Before deductions for hauling and government withholdings. Includes bulk tank, quantity and other premiums. Excludes hauling subsidies.

n/a = Not Available.

April Farm Prices Received Index Down 2 Points

The preliminary All Farm Products Index of Prices Received by Farmers in April, at 138 percent, based on 1990-1992=100, decreased two points from March. The Crop Index was down three points and the Livestock Index decreased one point. Producers received lower prices for eggs, strawberries, broccoli and lettuce and higher prices for cattle, onions, hogs and soybeans. In addition to prices, the overall index was also affected by the seasonal change based on a 3-year average mix of commodities producers sell. Increased monthly marketings of cattle, sweet corn, strawberries and milk offset decreased marketings of soybeans, corn, wheat and cotton.

The preliminary All Farm Products Index was up nine points from April 2009. The Food Commodities Index, at 138, decreased three points from last month but increased 12 points from April 2009.

Prices Paid Index Up 1 Point

The April Index of Prices Paid for Commodities and Services, Interest, Taxes, and Farm Wage Rates (PPITW) was 183 percent of the 1990-1992 average. The index was up one point from March and three points above April 2009. Higher prices in April for feeder cattle, diesel, feeder pigs and potash and phosphate more than offset lower prices for complete feeds, concentrates, feed grains and herbicides.

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